(c) by when the job will start again; and

(d) Government's proposal to preserve the historical statues/ sculptured relics of the seventh century?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) to (c) The work of excavation at Rajpat Khalisa Gosanimari village, District Cooch Behar (West Bengal) has been closed in year 2000 after having achieved the objectives set therefor.

(d) No statues/sculptured relics of the 7th Century A.D. have been found during the excavation. However, all other excavated materials have been kept safely preserved.

Funds allocated for extension of tourist facilities in Assam

1359. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount proposed to be allocated for the extension of tourist facilities in the State of Assam;

(b) whether any scheme for the same has been formulated;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) Development and promotion of tourism is primarily the responsibility of State Governments/UT Administrations concerned. Department of Tourism, Government of India provides financial assistance for identified tourism projects in consultation with them. During the Tenth Plan it has been decided to take up integrated development of tourist circuits and integrated development of major destinations.

(b) to (d) During the current financial year the following projects have been sanctioned under the Integrated Development of Tourism Circuits Scheme, for the State of Assam:—

(i) Brahmaputra River Front Development at Guwahati— Rs. 30 lakhs.

(ii) Development of Ethnic village at Bhalukpunj, Tezpur— Rs. 45 lakhs.

(iii) Camping site at Kohra range Kaziranga-Rs. 152 lakhs.

(iv) Road Signages for Assam-Rs. 24 lakhs.

Increase in business in Hotels by organising 'Plays'

†1360. SHRI RAMA SHANKER KAUSHIK: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have started organising plays in its Five State Hotels to increase business;

(b) if so, since when and the names of the hotels and quantum of the increase in the business made so far; and

(c) whether I.T.D.C. have recently engaged a troupe; if so, the money spent on it and the authority that approved it and profits accrued to the I.T.D.C.?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) and (b) Following general trend/practice in the hospitality sector, ITDC is also organising various cultural activities including plays from time to time in Ashok Hotel, New Delhi. These activities are promotional in nature and have a direct impact on hotel business. It is, however, not feasible to quantify its profitability in commercial terms.

(c) ITDC like all other hotels constantly and regularly engages cultural and theatre groups for its valued customers. This is a business practice in the hospitality industry.

Promotion of Pilgrim Tourism in Orissa

1361. SHRI SURENDRA LATH: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to promote Pilgrim Tourism;

(b) if so, the State-wise number of pilgrim Centres identified for development;

(c) whether any such centre has been identified in Orissa;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.